

# Carvers Creek State Park Master Plan

**Susan  
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# North Carolina State Parks Mission Statement

***The North Carolina State Parks System exists for the enjoyment, education, health and inspiration of all our citizens and visitors. The mission of the state parks system is to conserve and protect representative examples of the natural beauty, ecological features and recreational resources of statewide significance; to provide outdoor recreational opportunities in a safe and healthy environment; and to provide environmental education opportunities that promote stewardship of the state's natural heritage.***



# Agenda For Tonight's Meeting

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- Introductions
- Master Planning process
- Review of concepts
- Move to hallway to review concepts
- Obtain your input in writing

# Introductions

- Susan Hatchell Landscape Architecture, PLLC staff
- NC Division of Parks and Recreation staff

Lewis Ledford, Director of the NC Division of State Parks

Janet Pearson, Carvers Creek State Park Superintendent

Max Rogers, AICP, Carvers Creek State Park Project Manager

# Master Planning Process

- Site analysis & research
- Work with stakeholders
- Produce conceptual plans
- **Present to the public for input**
- Revise plans to one preliminary draft
- Online review period
- Prepare Master Plan Report





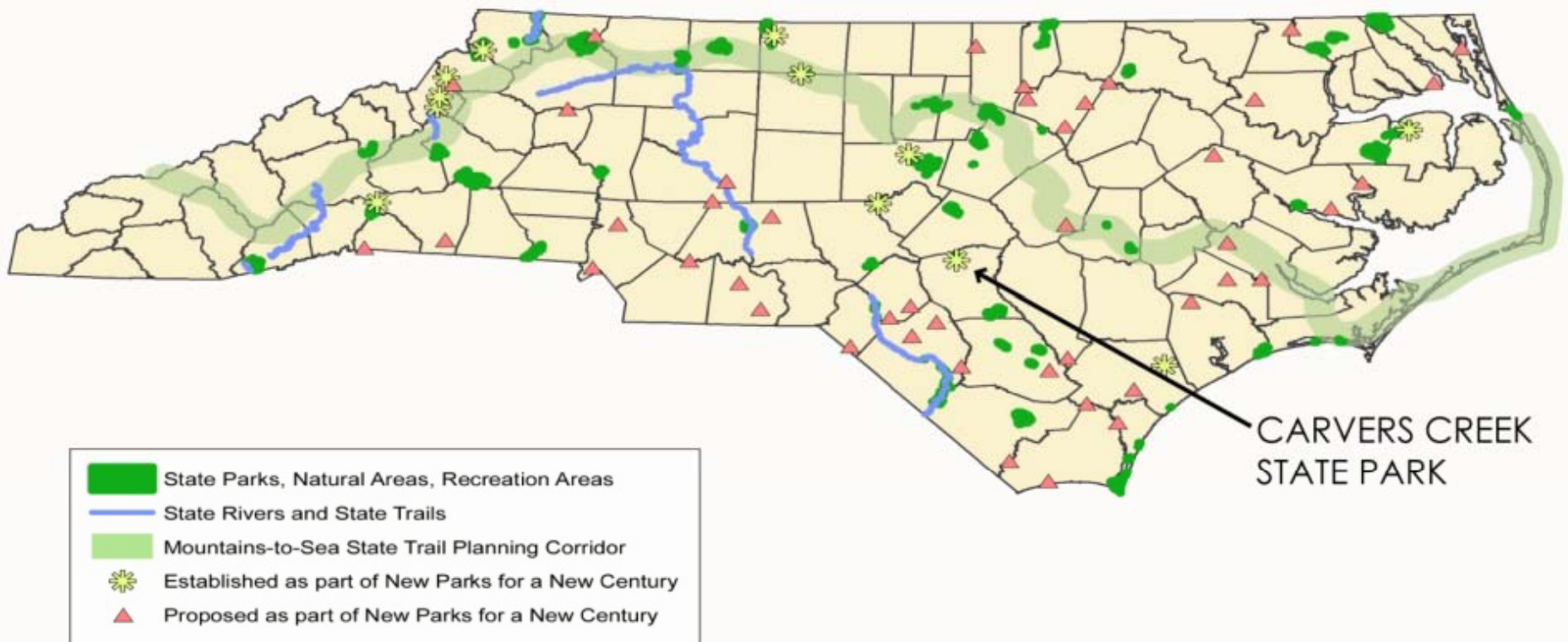
# Your input & survey

- Gauge public input on three concepts
- Use your input to revise concepts into one preliminary Master Plan
- You can fill out the survey online, here or mail it in
- Write comments on maps or use sticky notes
- Visit [www.ncparks.gov](http://www.ncparks.gov) for the link to the survey



# Location

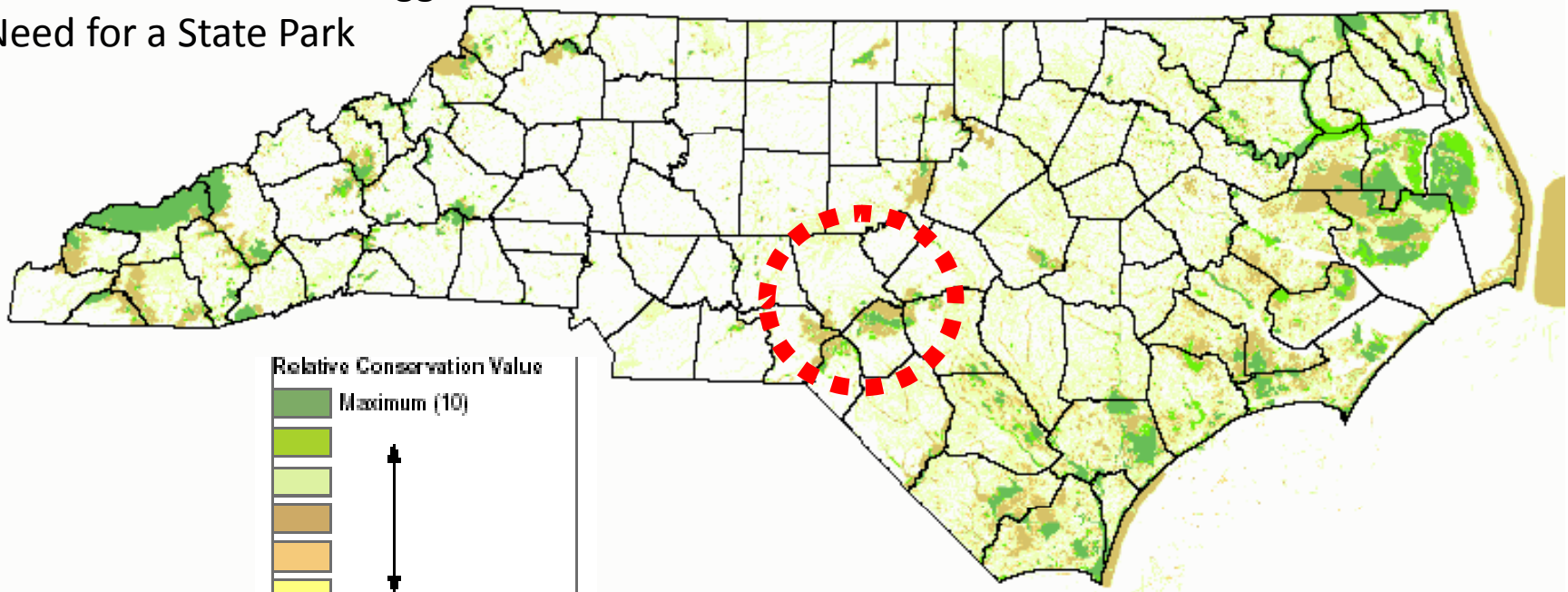
## NC STATE PARKS SYSTEM Long Range Planning





# Why is there a park here?

- Conservation ranking
- Buffers for Red-cockaded woodpeckers
- Buffers around Fort Bragg
- Need for a State Park



NC Department of Environment &  
Natural Resources

**Conservation Planning Tool**

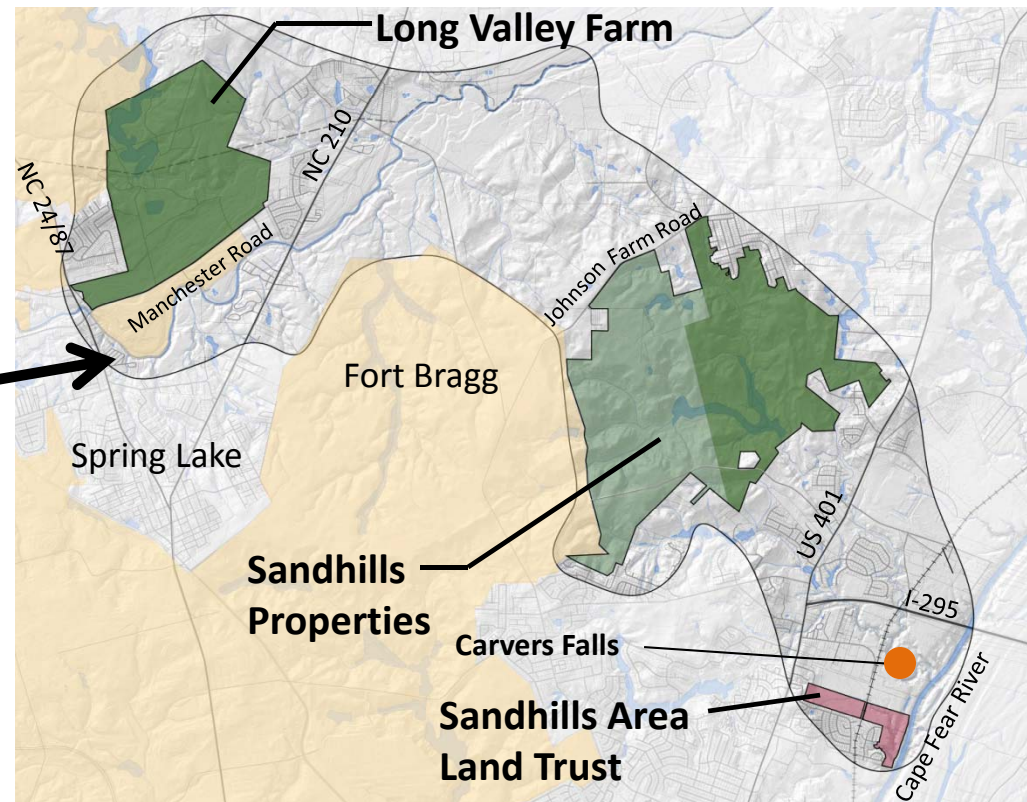
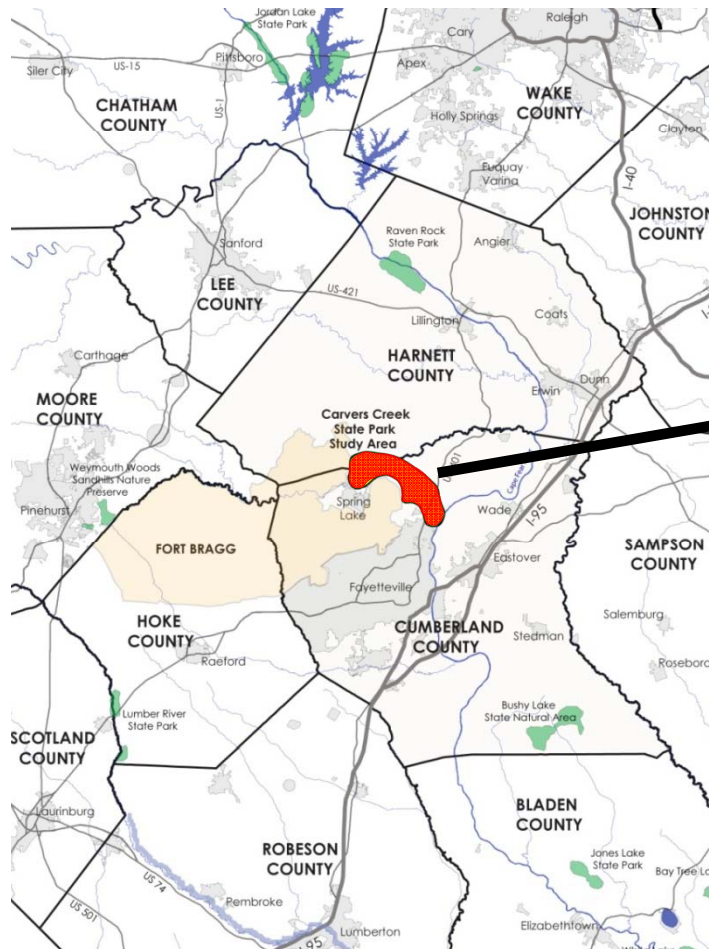
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# Regional Context - Study Area



- Ecological Resources
- Cultural History

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# Ecological Resources



Cypress-gum Swamp



Longleaf Pine Savannahs

- Rolling topography
- Sandy soils
- Fire dependent



Prime Agricultural Land



Pitcher Plant



Sundew



Red-cockaded Woodpecker



Eastern Fox Squirrel



Bachmann's Sparrow



Loggerhead Shrike

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# Cultural History

- Long Valley Farm has a rich cultural history
- The farm and 29 of the buildings and structures are contributing on the National Register of Historic Places

Robert Wall Christian – 1914-1927

Scientific Farmer

Original farm still intact

Overhills Property

Long Valley Farm was once part of Overhills – 1927-1937

Percy Rockefeller winter estate

Vacation/hunting

Now Fort Bragg property

James Stillman Rockefeller - 1937

Olympic gold medal winner

Airborne Command during WWII

Gentleman farmer

Vacation/hunting/nature study





# Regional Demographics

## **Cumberland County**

- Approximately 317,000 people
- Fourth largest county in NC

## **Harnett County**

- Approximately 112,000 people

## **Fort Bragg:**

- Approximately 250,000 people (soldiers and families)
- 80% live off base
- Large number of school age children

## **Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)**

- Large increase in military personnel, families and school age children



# Recreational Needs

## National Survey of Recreation and the Environment – 2002-2007

### Top 10 Most Popular Outdoor Recreation Activities for North Carolina's South Region

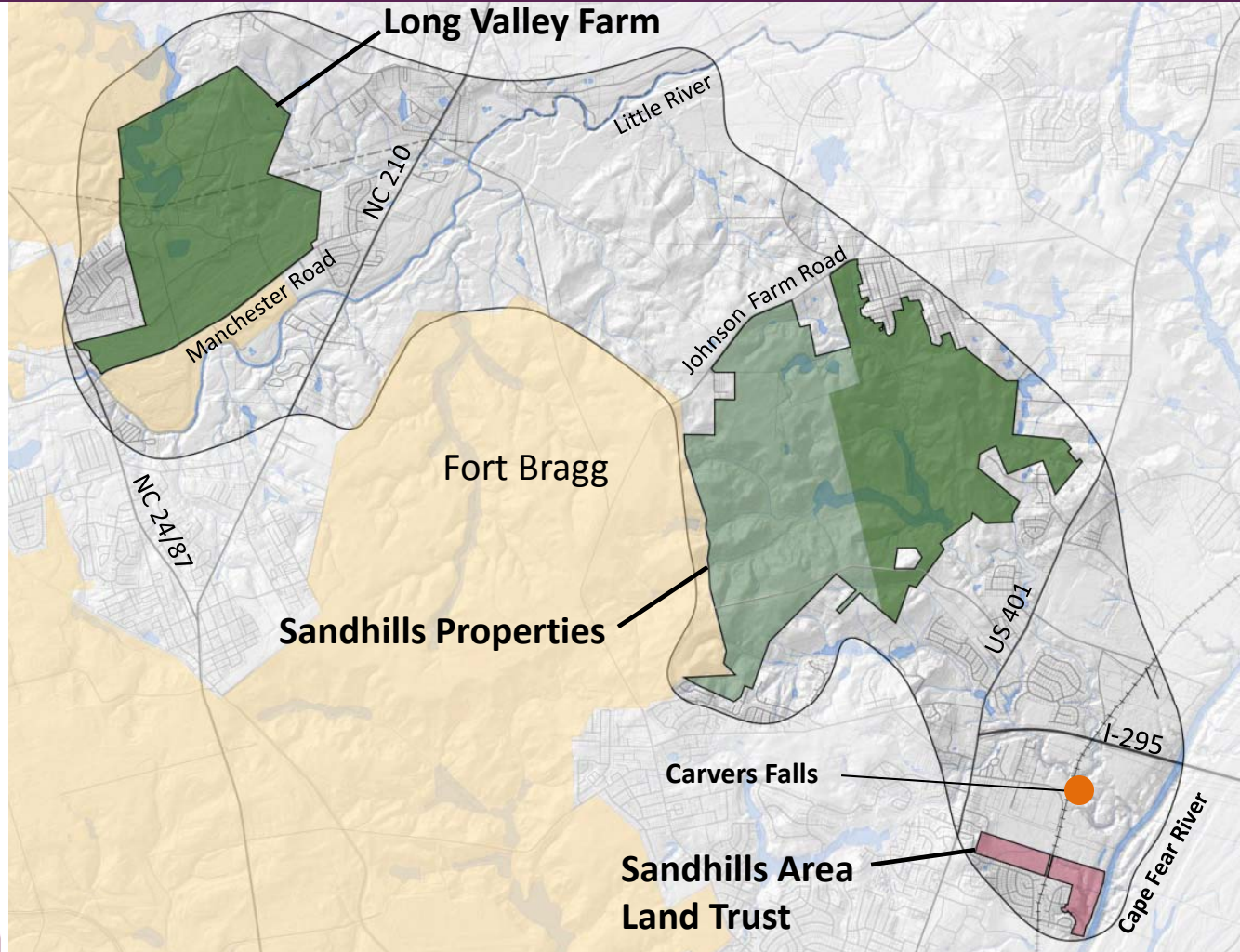
Walking for pleasure	82%
Family gathering outdoors	75%
Gardening or landscaping	66%
View/photograph natural scenery	57%
Driving for pleasure	55%
Visit nature centers	54%
Sightseeing	50%
Picnicking	49%
Swimming in an outdoor pool	49%
Yard Games	46%

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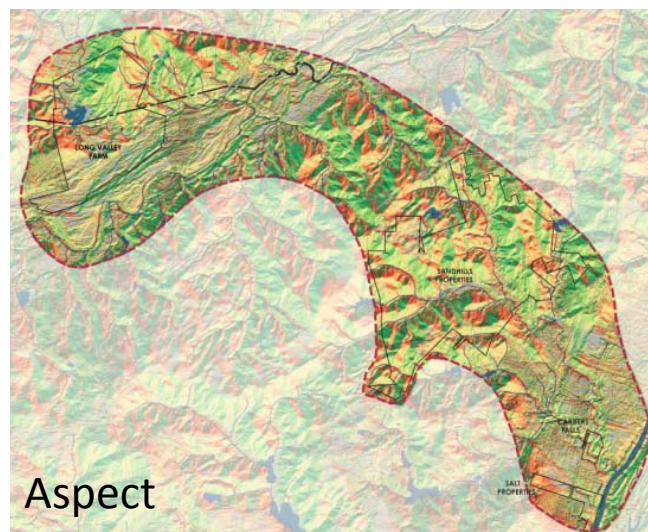
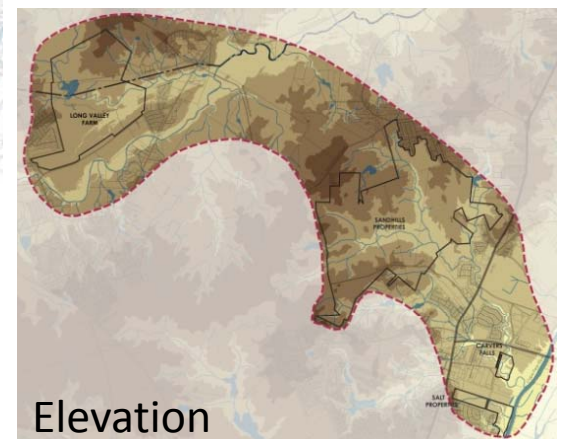
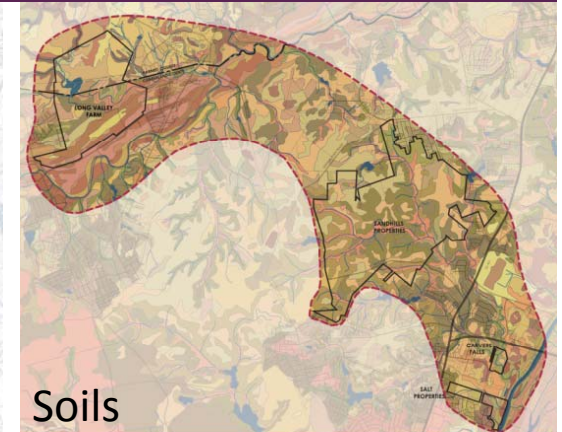
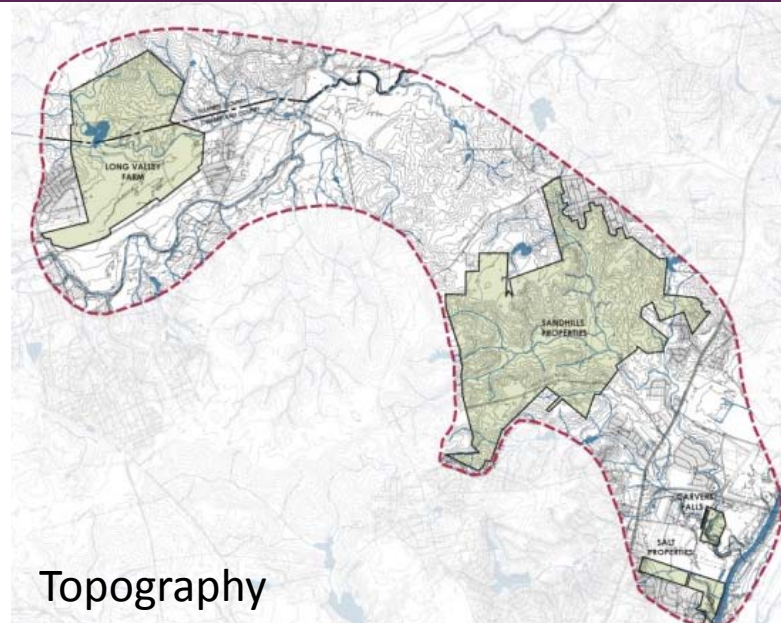


# Study Area



# Site Analysis

- Topography
- Geology
- Soils
- Elevation
- Slope
- Aspect
- Hydrology
- Flora and Fauna





# Opportunities & Constraints for Park Development

## Opportunities

- Significant ecological resources and conservation projects
- Significant Historical/Cultural resources
- Many connections to other recreational facilities

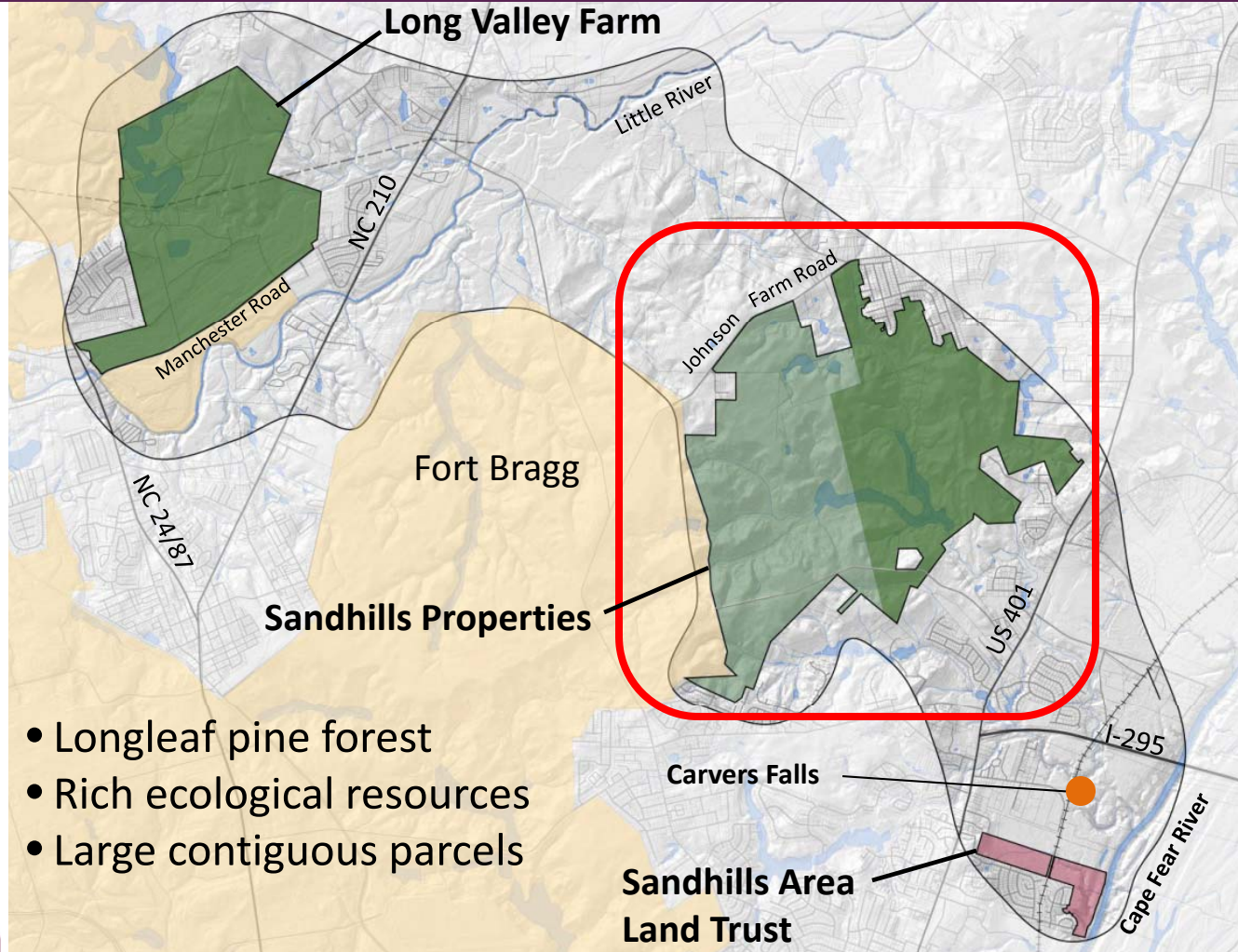
## Constraints

- Conservation easements
- Buffers, protected habitat
- Parcels aren't contiguous
- Many road crossings and a railroad crossing
- Relatively steep and sandy soils
- Wetlands, streams and swamps

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# Sandhills Properties - Visual Tour



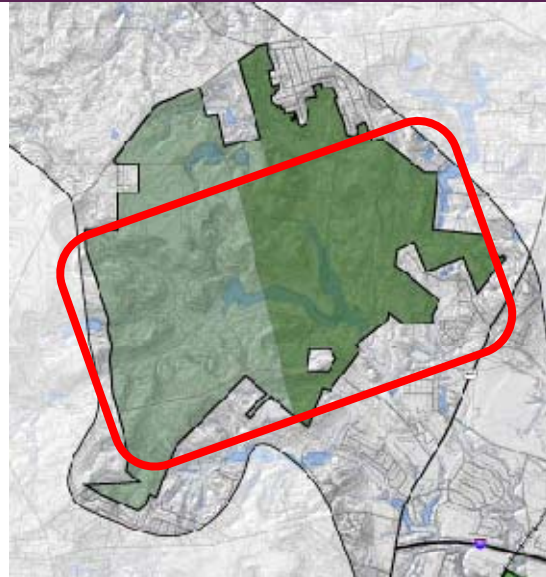
- Longleaf pine forest
- Rich ecological resources
- Large contiguous parcels



# Sandhills Property



Blackwater Creek



Longleaf Plantation



Blackwater Swamp



Species Diversity



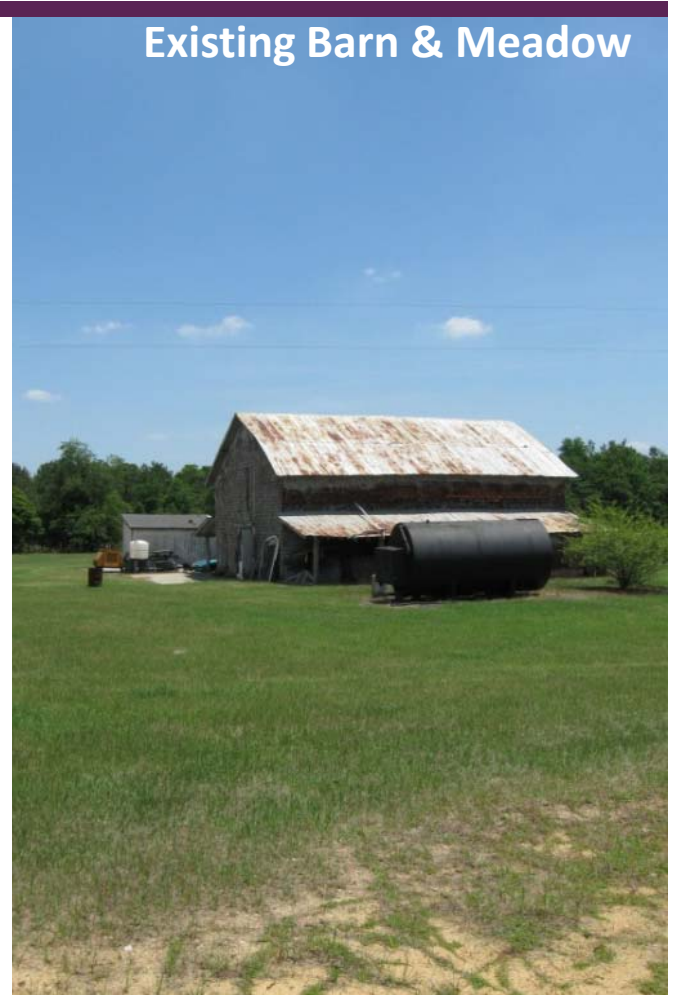
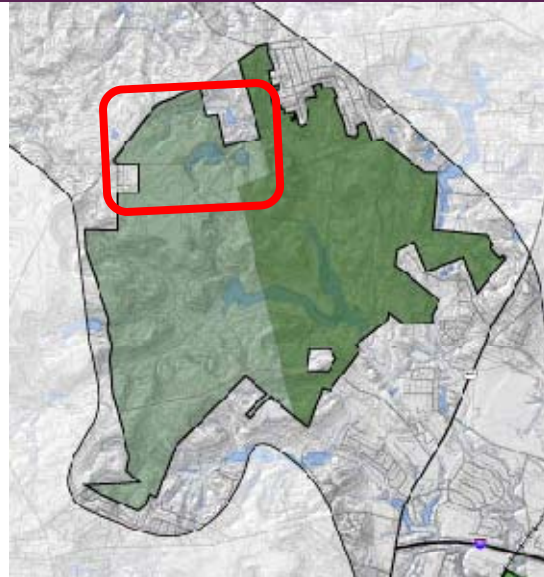
Longleaf Pine Forest

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# Sandhills Property



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# Sandhills Property - Special Status Species & Natural Communities

## Special Status Species:

Red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*)  
Sandhills pyxie moss (*Pyxidanthra barbulata* var. *brevifolia*)  
Canby's bulrush (*Schoenoplectus etuberculatus*)  
Bog oatgrass (*Danthonia epilis*)  
Fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*)

## Watch List:

Bachman's sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*)  
Streamhead lobelia (*Lobelia batsonii*)

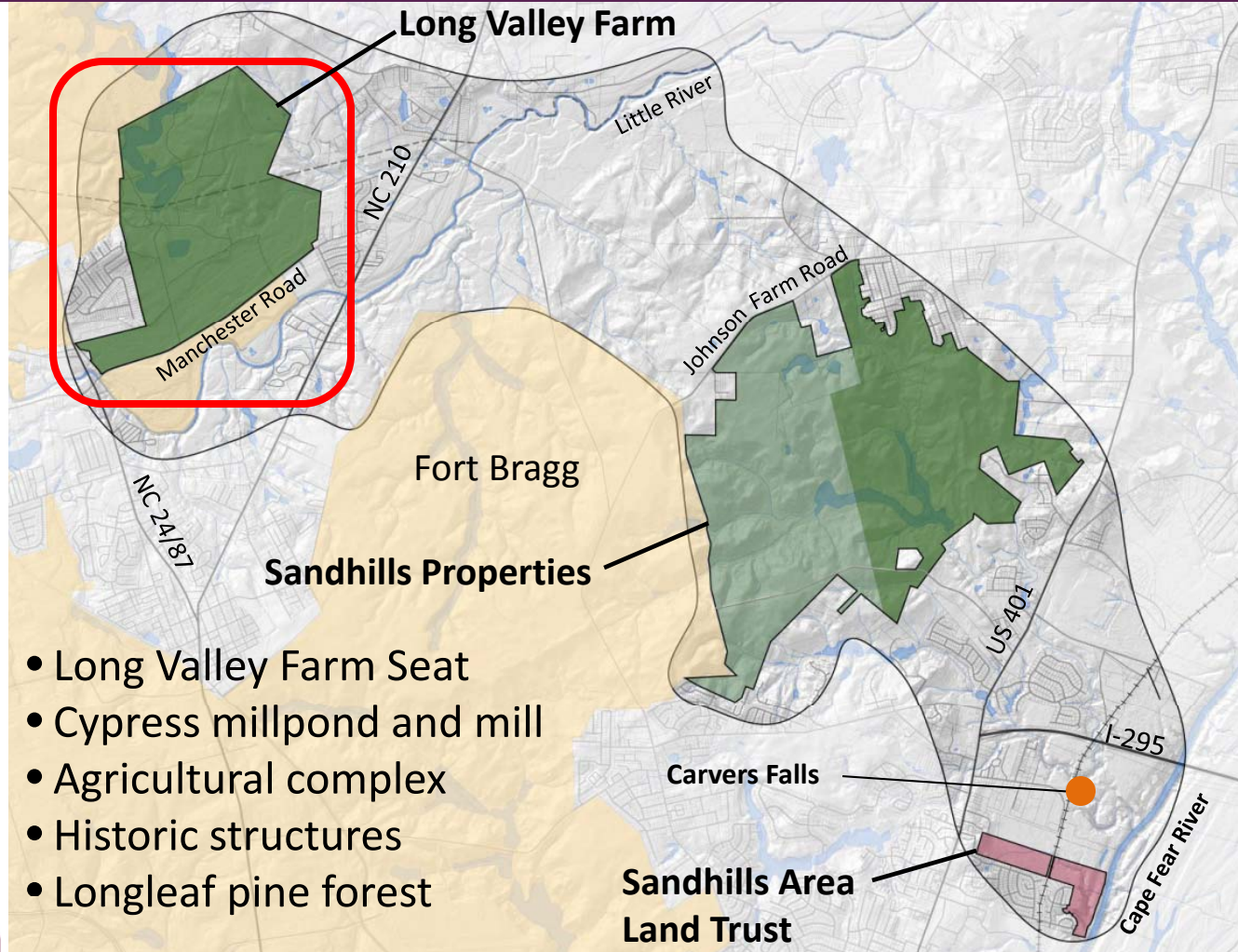
## Natural Communities:

Xeric Sandhill Scrub  
Pine/Scrub Oak Sandhill (Blackjack Variant)  
Pine/Scrub Oak Sandhill (Mesic Transition Variant)  
Sandhill Seep  
Streamhead Pocosin  
Coastal Plain Small Stream Swamp  
Coastal Plain Semi-permanent Impoundment



Pitcher plants

# Long Valley Farm - Visual Tour





# Long Valley Farm - National Register of Historic Places

## Listed for:

- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Social History

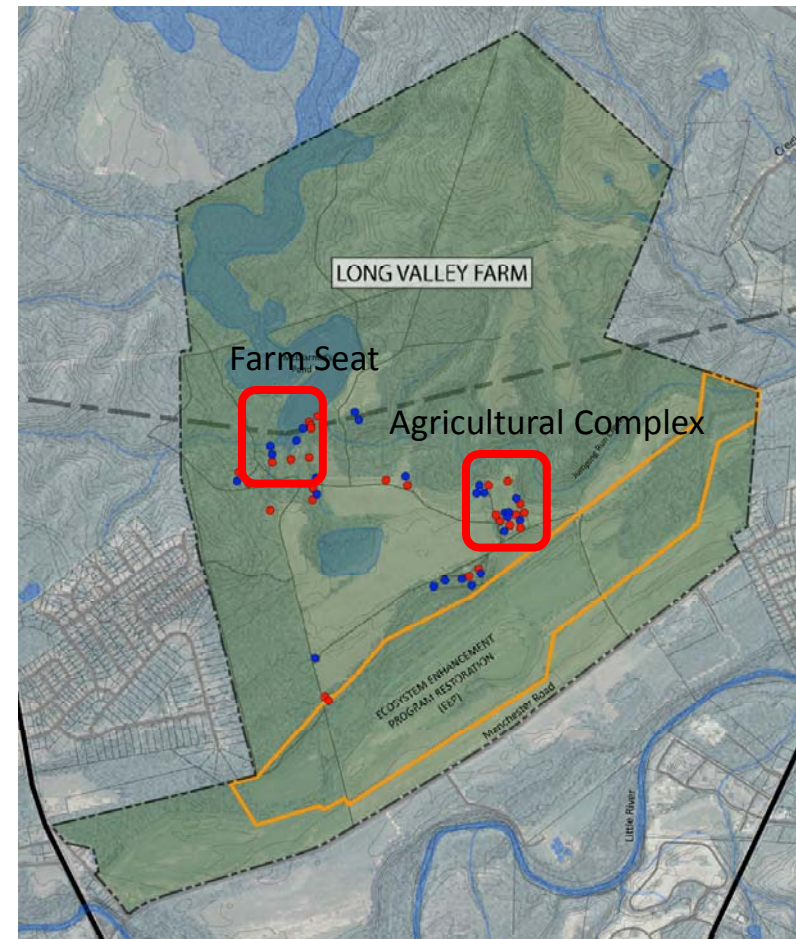
Total Buildings/Structures: 58

Total Contributing: 29

Total Non-Contributing: 29

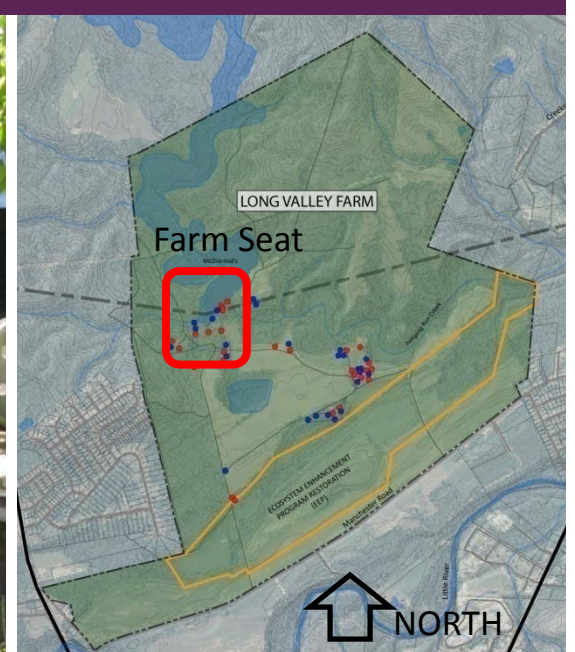
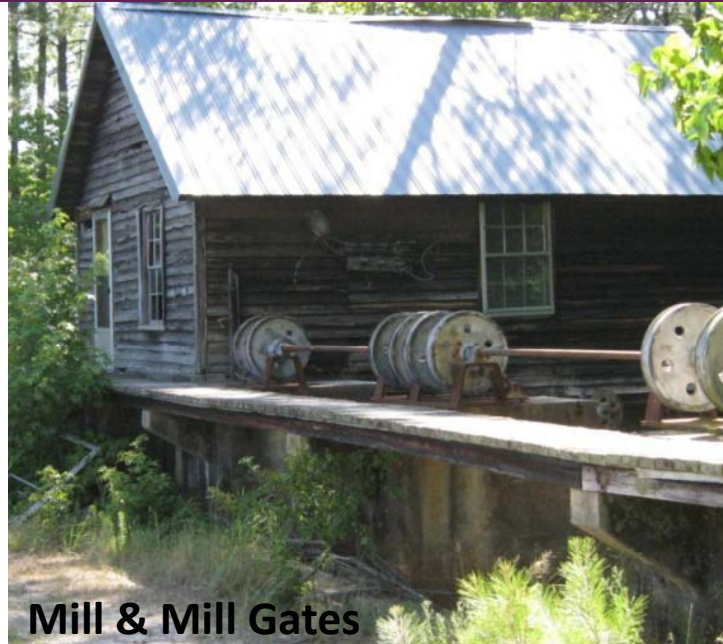
- Farm Seat
- Agricultural Complex
- Other buildings
- The landscape/farm itself

- = Contributing  
● = Non-Contributing





# Long Valley Farm - Farm Seat



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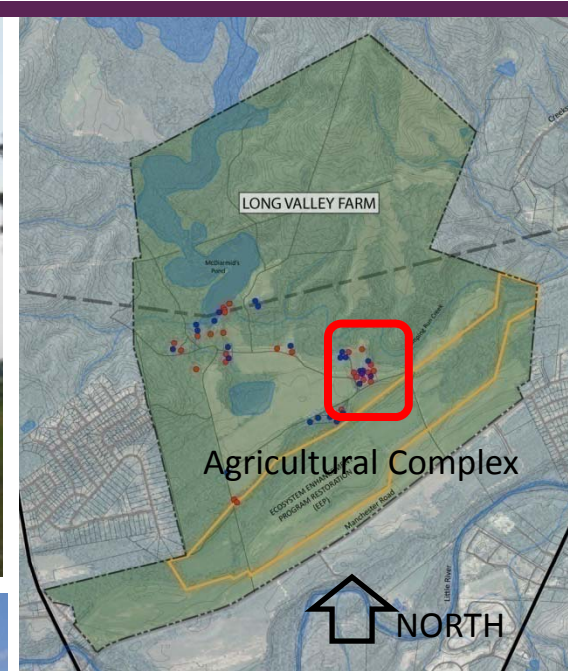




# Long Valley Farm - Agricultural Complex



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# Long Valley Farm - Significant Natural Resources



**Longleaf Pine**

- Significant Natural Heritage Area
- The Nature Conservancy longleaf pine restoration
- Ecosystem Enhancement Project

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**Blackwater Creek**



**Cypress-gum Swamp**





# Long Valley Farm - Special Status Species & Natural Communities

## Special Status Species:

Red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*)  
Cuthbert's turtlehead (*Chelone cuthbertii*)  
Fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*)

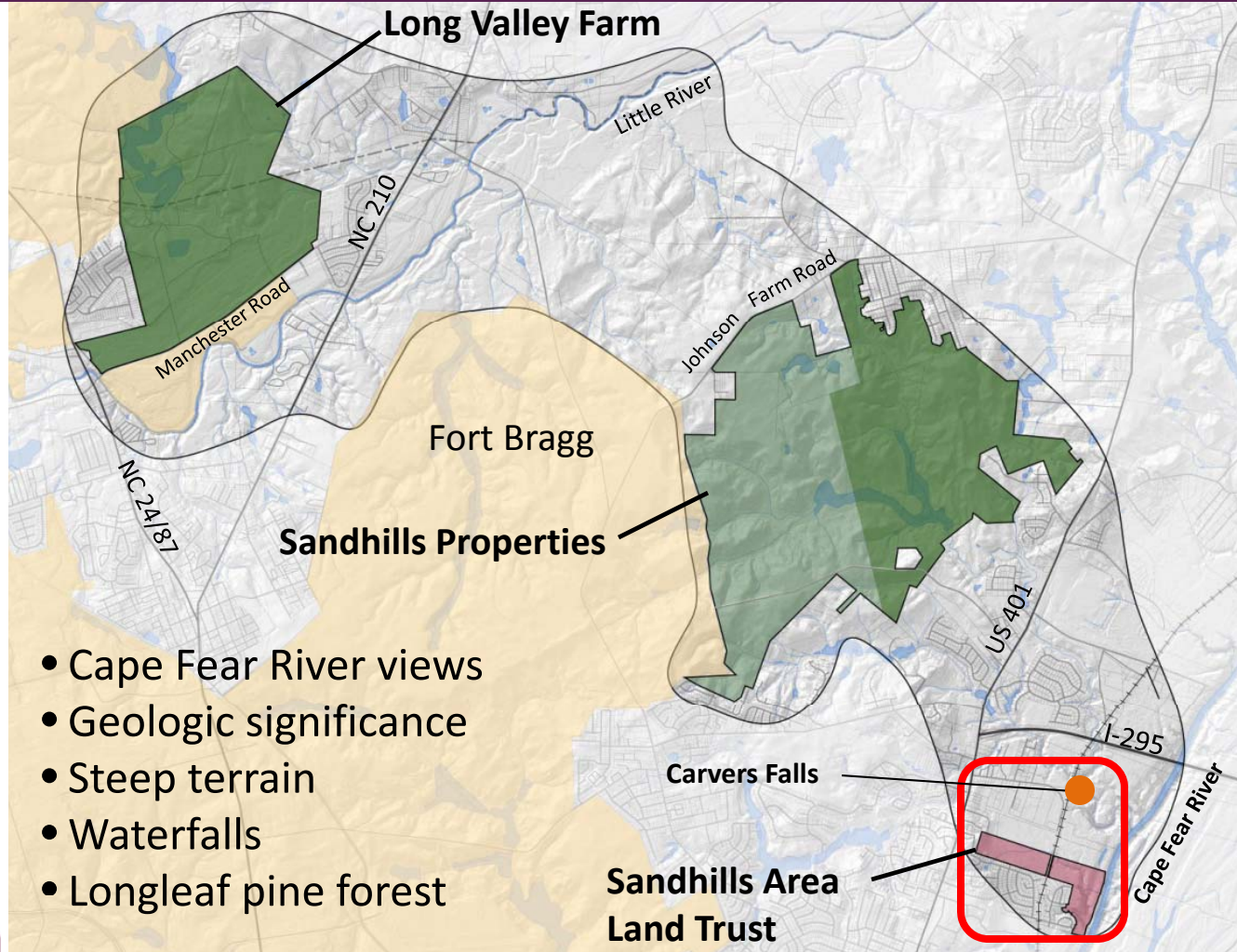
## Natural Communities:

Pine/Scrub Oak Sandhill (Mixed Oak Variant)  
Xeric Sandhill Scrub  
Dry Oak-Hickory Forest  
Mesic/Wet Pine Flatwoods  
Streamhead Pocosin  
Cypress-gum Swamp  
Coastal Plain Semi-impoundment



Cypress-gum Swamp

# Cape Fear River Properties - Visual Tour

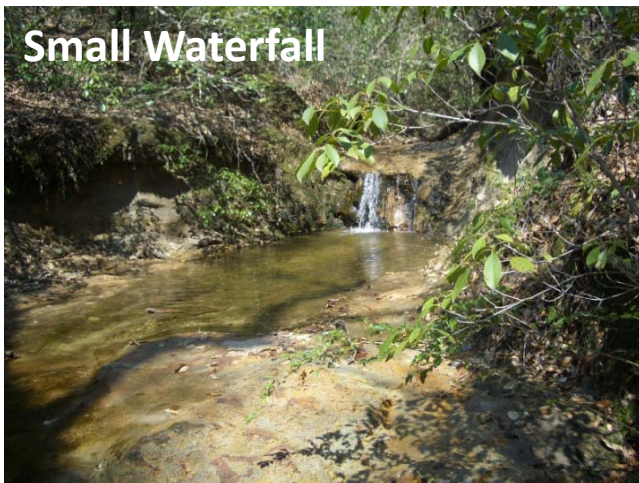




# Cape Fear River Properties



Steep Topography



Small Waterfall



Tributary



Cape Fear Views



Carvers Falls

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# What is a State Park?

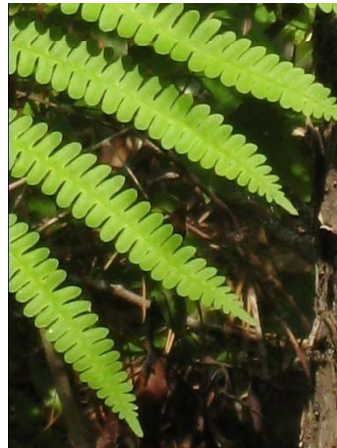
- Conserve and protect:
  - Natural beauty
  - Ecological features
  - Recreational resources
- Provide:
  - Outdoor recreational opportunities
  - Environmental education opportunities
- Promote:
  - Stewardship of the state's natural heritage





# Possible Facilities in a State Park

- Visitor Center/Park Office
- Picnic shelters/individual picnic sites
- Fishing Pier/platform
- Open play field/meadow
- Historic buildings as exhibits or rentals
- Canoe/kayak access or rental
- Campsites
- Multi-use trail
- Boardwalk
- Educational/interpretive exhibits



# Possible Activities in a State Park

- Hike
- Bike
- Fish
- Rent or launch a canoe/kayak
- Camp - primitive or group
- Walk on interpretive or multi-use trails
- Picnic
- Rent a shelter
- View wildlife
- Visit historic sites
- Rent historic buildings for events
- View overlooks on the Cape Fear River
- Attend farm/heritage days





## Three Concepts

### Concept One

**Low  
Intensity  
Park  
Development**

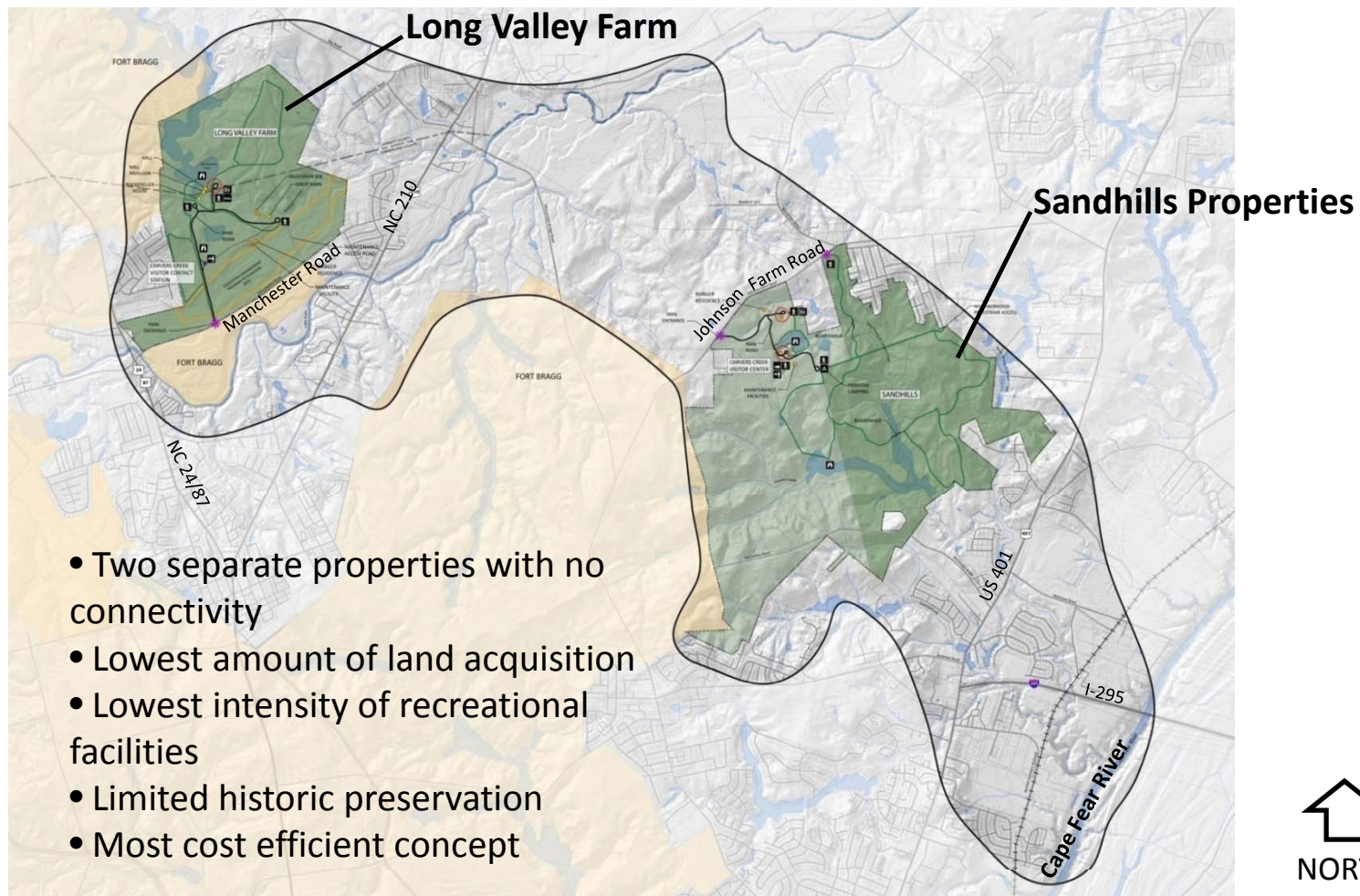
### Concept Two

**Medium  
Intensity  
Park  
Development**

### Concept Three

**High  
Intensity  
Park  
Development**

# Concept One - Low Intensity Park Development





# Concept One - Low Intensity Park Development

Complete existing land acquisition

Visitor Center at Sandhills

14 miles of trails on two separate properties

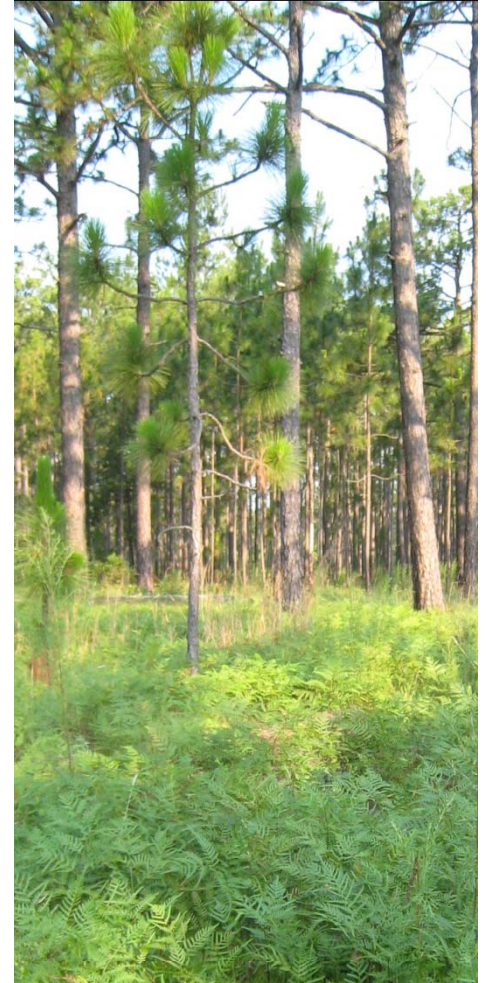
Fishing at Sandhills

Canoe/kayak access at Long Valley Farm.

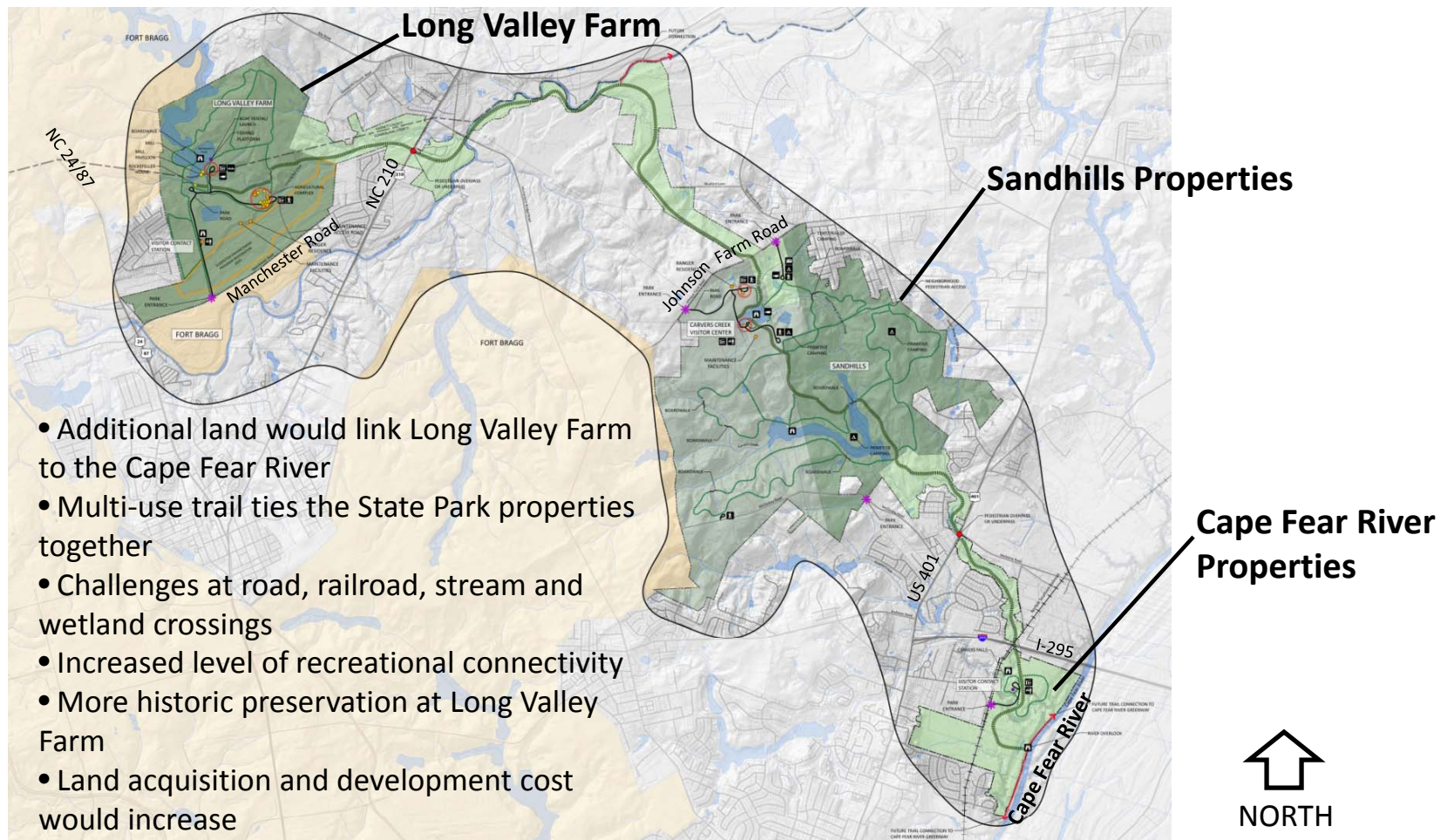
Primitive camping at Sandhills

Focus on retaining four contributing historic buildings and structures for external viewing only at Long Valley Farm

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# Concept Two - Medium Intensity Park Development





# Concept Two - Medium Intensity Park Development

900 additional acres of land acquired to add a connection to the Cape Fear River, as well as land adjacent to the River for park development

21 miles of trails on several properties

Additional 12.5 miles of multi-use Trail

Fishing at Long Valley Farm & Sandhills

Canoe/kayak access at Long Valley Farm

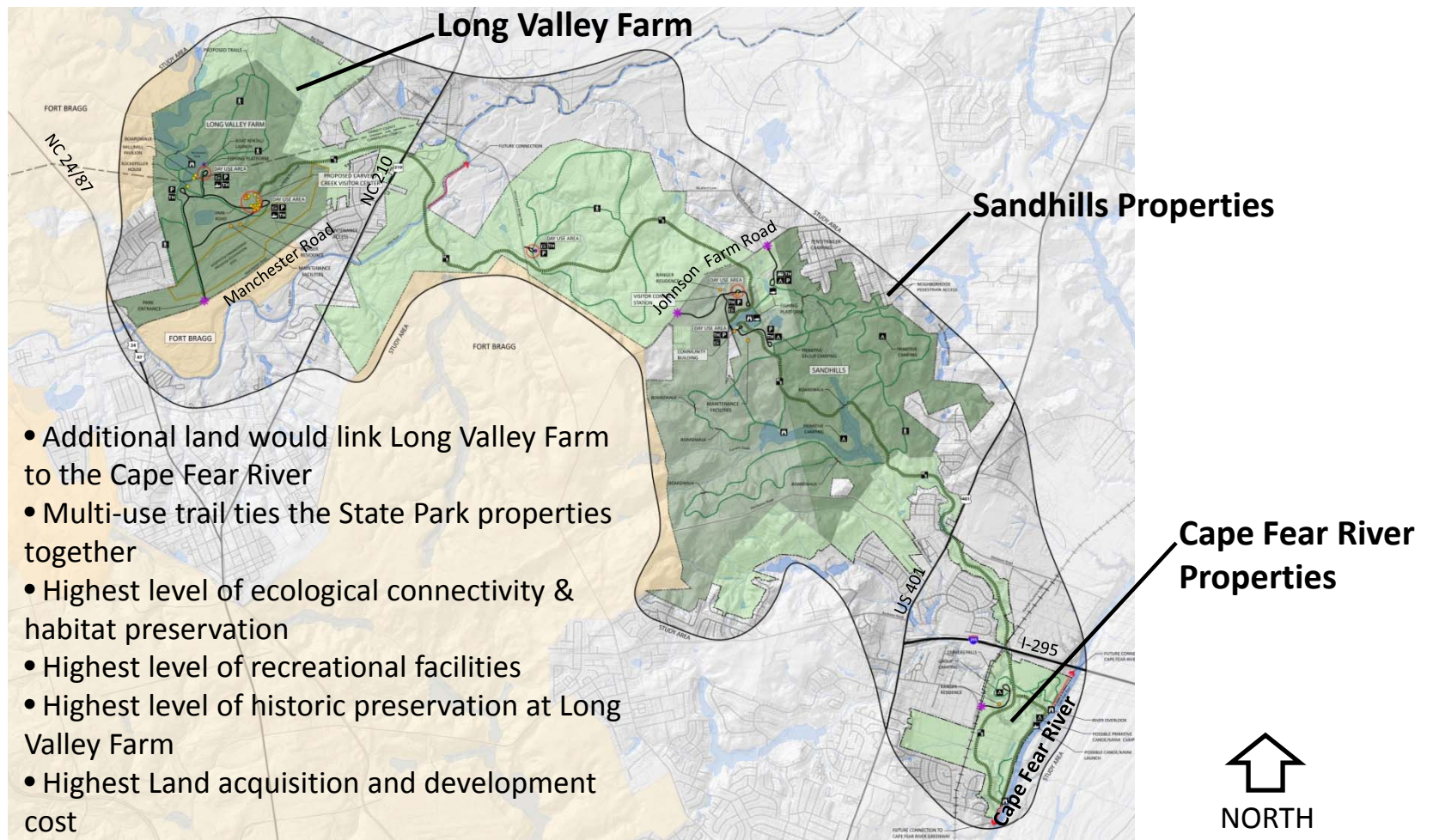
Primitive camping, group camping, tent/trailer camping at several locations

Focus on retaining seventeen contributing historic buildings and structures at Long Valley Farm, with some building interiors available for guided tours

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# Concept Three - High Intensity Park Development





# Concept Three - High Intensity Park Development

3,600 additional acres of land acquired for connection to the Cape Fear River, as well as additional land for buffers, preservation and recreation

30 miles of trails on several properties

Additional 14 miles of multi-use Trail

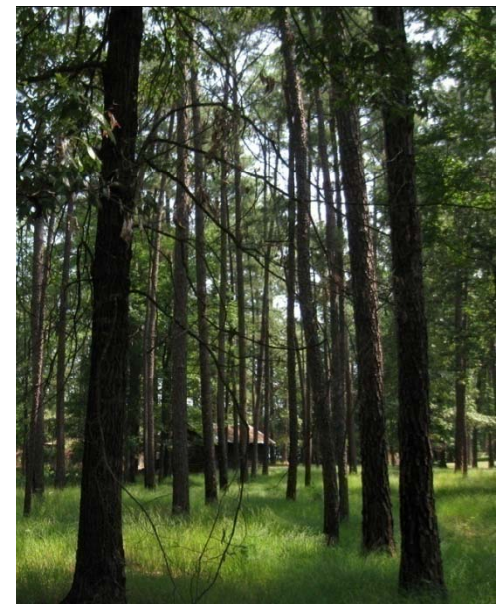
Fishing at Long Valley Farm & Sandhills

Canoe/kayak access and rentals at Long Valley Farm, as well as canoe/kayak access along the Cape Fear River

Primitive camping, group camping, tent/trailer camping at several locations

Focus on retaining twenty-one contributing historic buildings and structures at Long Valley Farm, with some building interiors available for guided tours and rentals

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# Next Steps

## **Tonight:**

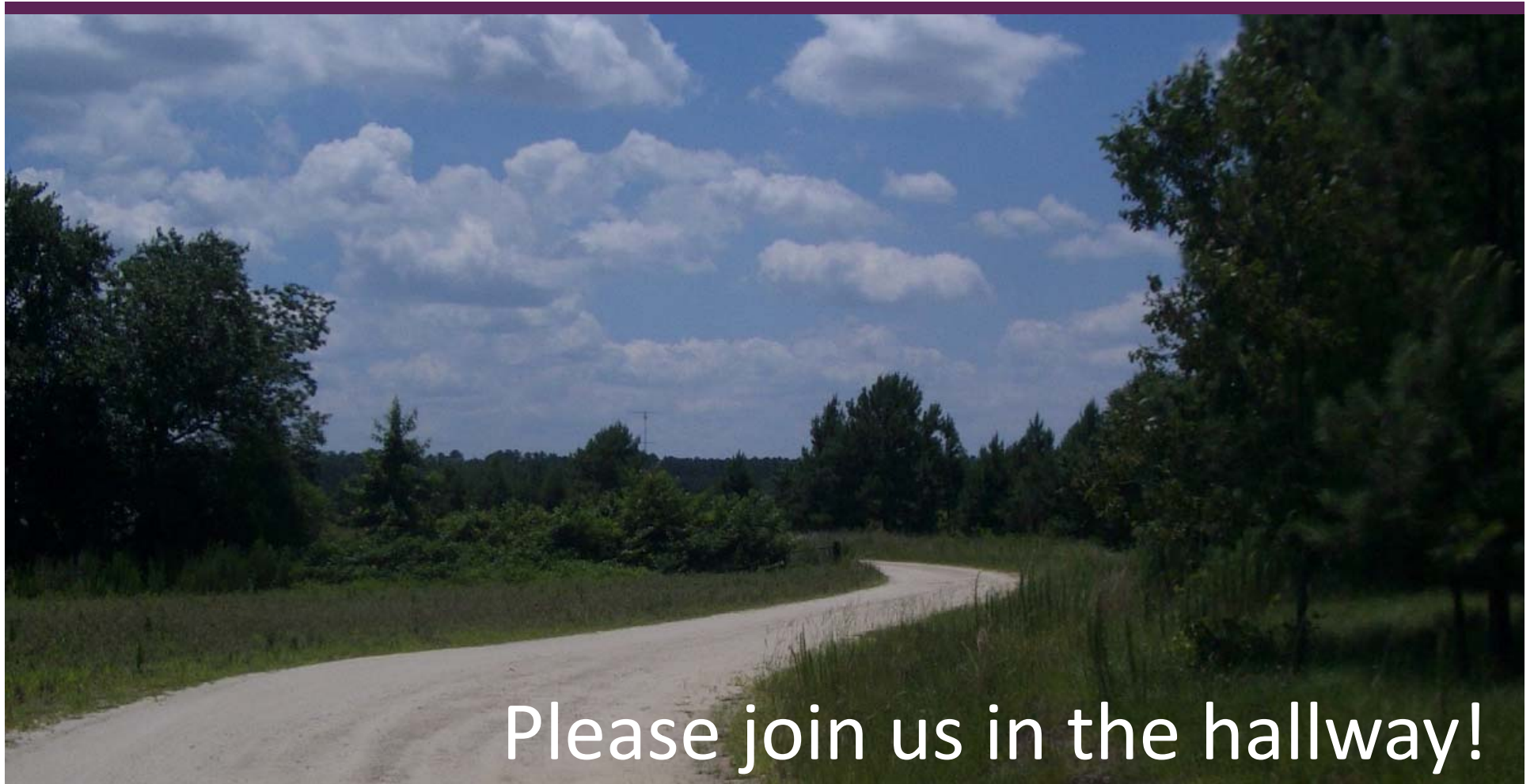
- Adjourn to the other room to talk over the maps
- Important to get your feedback
- Please write your comments on the maps and sticky notes
- Please take the survey
- The survey, this presentation, and the park concepts will be available online tomorrow
- Deadline for comments is September 27, 2010

## **Schedule for the final Master Plan:**

- Compile public input
- Revise to prepare one preliminary Master Plan
- Brief online review period – if you sign in, we will notify you by email
- Revise to prepare final Master Plan



# Carvers Creek State Park Master Plan



Please join us in the hallway!

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